

Bureau of Land Management  
Adrian Garcia, Project Manager  
Sun Zia Transmission Line Project  
P.O Box 27115  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115  
Re: Public Comments, proposed Sun Zia Southwest Transmission Project

Hello Mr. Garcia,

Thank you for extending the public comment period for this important subject. I believe that this project is representative of many possible energy-related projects throughout the Southwest and its outcome and possible execution, if undertaken, could well be a model for the future. In my view this project represents big business wanting to plan for alternative energy's future and must reflect, and take into consideration, the environmental elements, costs, and accountability that will be a critical part of every plan involving public lands, environmentally-sensitive private lands, and the balance between business desires and environmental needs.

I am a resident of San Manuel, Arizona and work in Oracle, Arizona. I have lived in San Manuel for 6 years and have owned land near the Galiuro Mountains since 1979. I know that there is a strong need for jobs in rural Arizona and that alternative power sources like solar plants and wind-farms will provide "green" jobs as well as higher-paying technical work as opposed to minimum wage positions. The recent rejection of a proposed solar steam plant on BHP's tailings flats in San Manuel because of the project's extreme need for water is an example of the current sensitivity involved between local, county regulations and business interests' desire to manifest projects that have both the environment's health and America's energy independence in mind.

After reading many of the comments recently submitted to BLM by outside parties like TNC, The Center for Desert Archaeology, and some individuals that I know, I find that I agree with The Nature Conservancy's suggested route: connect the Winchester and Tortolita substations while avoiding the Galiuro Mountains and north-south alignments in the Lower San Pedro River Valley. A preferable alternative would be to use the existing 345 kV alignment from Vail to the Winchester Substation.

It's Sun Zia's desire to spend as little money as possible and choose a route that will be the shortest and easiest to build and maintain. That makes sense from a business aspect, of course. However, by following current utility corridors they will not necessarily have the shortest route or the easiest to maintain, but they will have more blessings by the people who live in these areas such as myself and will have increased support by environmental groups and national news. They will be making a choice that will cost more initially while being more rewarding in the long-term. All industries must make these choices and Sun Zia could be a model corporate citizen and example of enlightened thinking. They could respect the *local* publics' voice. They could divert considerable anger and lawsuits. Sun Zia could be big business leading the way for alternative energy's

future in a respectful way.

I highly recommend that BLM and all other publicly-accountable agencies support transmission line routes that do not involve crossing virgin public lands, sensitive areas, and lands that are adjacent to natural jewels like the San Pedro River valley and Aravaipa Canyon. Let big business know that alternative energy is ideally suited for projects that can be more locally-focused and supply power on a local level. It is more economically intelligent by keeping jobs local and is more environmentally smart by showing residents that big business cares about more than just profit for their shareholders.

Thanks for your time and ongoing efforts to be a good citizen,

James Bergstrom  
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